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The Bureau of Land Management Billings Field Office plans to continue fertility control on wild horse mares on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range this season.

According to the decision record dated July 29, 2005, 20 mares aged 11 years and older would receive fertility control (Porcine Zona Pellucida or PZP) vaccine for the purposes of suppressing herd growth rates in order to manage for healthy horses on healthy rangelands. The fertility control is scheduled to begin in September.

Fertility control research began on the Pryor herd in 2001 and has continued every year since then. The BLM has analyzed the impacts of the fertility control each year in an environmental assessment.

Current estimates place the population of the Pryor herd at 167 horses, including 28 live foals (out of 35 recorded births). Nearly all of last year's foal crop was lost due to mountain lion predation. No evidence of mountain lion predation has been seen this year.

The decision record and environment assessment can be found on the internet at: http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/pryor.html or by contacting the Billings Field Office at 406-896-5013.

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